

Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SPTA-02 L-03 SP-02

PM-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02

TRSE-00 /049 W

-----029314 101755Z /53

P 101639Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8378

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, PN, US

SUBJ: ECONOMIC/MILITARY COOPERATION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 200911

1. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES OPIC'S FLEXIBILITY EXPRESSED IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE LETTER FROM MR. POATS TO BARLETTA. HOWEVER, WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE LETTER, AS DRAFTED, SHOULD NOT BE DELIVERED. GOING OVER THE HEAD OF DR. LOPEZ-GUEVARA IN THIS FASHION IS VERY RISKY BUSINESS, CONSIDERING THE MANY NEGOTIATIONS WE WILL BE UNDERTAKING WITH HIM IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO AFFRONT HIM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE LETTER CAN BE TOUCHED UP TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM. WE THEREFORE MAKE THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

2. STRIKE THE LAST TWO PARAGRAPHS, BEGINNING WITH THE WORD "SUBSEQUENTLY". INSERT IN THEIR PLACE THE FOLLOWING:

"IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME DIFFERENCES CONCERNING WHAT SHOULD BE SAID ON THIS MATTER IN THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES REGARDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COOPERATION. PROVIDED THAT YOU CONFIRM TO ME THAT IT WOULD NOT ALTER OUR PRIOR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL BE A GOVERNMENTAL GUARANTY AGREEMENT, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE RESOLVE THE MATTER BY SIMPLY OMITTING ANY REFERENCE IN THE NOTES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA AS GUARANTOR.

"I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU ON THIS QUESTION."

3. THE AMBASSADOR WOULD DELIVER THIS LETTER PERSONALLY TO BARLETTA AND SEEK TO OBTAIN A PROMISE TO SEND MR. POATS A LETTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONFIRMING PAST UNDERSTANDINGS. WE WOULD SEND A COPY OF THE POATS LETTER TO LOPEZ-GUEVARA UNDER COVER OF A LETTER FROM THE DCM, REGRETTING THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM BEFOREHAND, BUT EXPLAINING THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO RESOLVE THE MATTER IN THIS FASHION IN THE BELIEF THAT IT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO LOPEZ-GUEVARA. WE WOULD EXPLAIN THAT THE IMPENDING DEPARTURE OF MINISTER BARLETTA MADE IT IMPERATIVE TO MAKE THIS APPROACH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (LOPEZ-GUEVARA IS CURRENTLY OUT OF TOWN.)

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN EXPEDITIOUS APPROVAL OF THIS PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. JORDEN

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Message Attributes

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